



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2023

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2023/24 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL RED SEA URCHIN FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2023/24 Southeast Alaska commercial red sea urchin fishery will open by emergency order at 5:00 a.m., Sunday, October 1, 2023. The season will be open for daily fishing periods from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week. A total of 2,318,500 pounds of red sea urchins will be available for harvest this season.

The following areas will open for daily fishing periods at 5:00 a.m., Sunday, October 1, 2023:

District 1

Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal - Subdistrict 101-11: will be open for a guideline harvest level (GHL) of **374,200 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Dixon Entrance and Portland Canal east and south of a line extending 3.0 nautical miles (nmi) from the Foggy Point range marker at 54°55.50' N lat, 130°58.60' W long to an offshore point at 54°56.86' N lat, 131°03.24' W long, then south to intersect a line between Barren Island Light and Lord Rock Light at 54°44.02' N lat, 131°03.24' W long to Lord Rock Light at 54°43.54' N lat, 130°49.22' W long, then due south to a point in Dixon Entrance at 54°42.03' N lat, 130°49.22' W long, west of a line from the northernmost tip of Point Phipp at 54°46.56' N lat, 130°37.25' W long to an unnamed island off the mainland shoreline at 54°47.58' N lat, 130°38.10' W long, and north of the U.S./Canada border with the following restriction:

Nakat Inlet: all waters will be closed north of 54°49.10' N lat and west of 130°42.75' W long.

Revillagigedo Channel and southern Clarence Strait - Subdistrict 101-21: will be open for a GHL of **550,600 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters south of a line from Point White at 54°56.00' N lat, 131°29.83' W long to an offshore point on the District 1 and 2 boundary at 54°54.72' N lat, 131°48.90' W long, south and west of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.09' N lat, 131°11.73' W long to an offshore point approximately 3.0 nmi off Foggy Point Light at 54°56.86' N lat, 131°03.24' W long, then south to 54°44.02' N lat, 131°03.24' W long to Lord Rock Light at 54°43.54' N lat, 130°49.22' W long to a point due south on the U.S./Canada border at 54°42.03' N lat, 130°49.22' W long.

Note: Bee Rocks (Subdistrict 101-22) is not included in this area.

Bee Rocks - Subdistrict 101-22: will be open for a GHL of **138,600 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait east of 131°37.00' W long, south of 54°54.42' N lat, west of 131°30.00' W long, and north of 54°50.00' N lat.

Revillagigedo Channel and Felice Strait - Subdistrict 101-23: will be open for a GHL of **202,100 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel west of a line from Quadra Point at 55°05.17' N lat, 130°59.05' W long to Kah Shakes Point at 55°04.22' N lat, 130°58.78' W long, south of a line from the eastern shore of Annette Island at 55°06.78' N lat, 131°21.50' W long to Mary Island at 55°05.95' N lat, 131°13.00' W long to Mary Island Light at 55°05.94' N lat, 131°10.96' W long to the northernmost tip of Black Island at 55°08.00' N lat, 131°04.80' W long, then due east to the mainland shore at 55°08.00' N lat, 131°04.59' W long, north of a line from Duke Point at 54°55.09' N lat, 131°11.73' W long to an offshore point at 54°56.86' N lat, 131°03.24' W long, then to the Foggy Point range marker at 54°55.50' N lat, 130°58.60' W long, and east of 131°26.60' W long.

Percy Islands and southern Gravina Island - Subdistrict 101-25: will be open for a GHL of **388,600 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait south of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Dall Head at 55°07.74' N lat, south of a line from southernmost tip of Dall Head at 55°07.75' N lat, 131°45.11' W long to Cedar Point at 55°05.82' N lat, 131°36.54' W long, east of a line from 55°07.75' N lat, 131°52.35' W long to 54°54.72' N lat, 131°48.90' W long, north of a line from Point White at 54°56.00' N lat, 131°29.83' W long to an offshore point on the District 1 and 2 boundary at 54°54.72' N lat, 131°48.90' W long, and west of 131°26.60' W long.

West Shore of Gravina Island - Subdistrict 101-29: will be open for a GHL of **445,700 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait south and west of a line from Caamano Point at 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long to Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N lat, 131°50.03' W long to the northernmost tip of Vallenar Point at 55°25.57' N lat, 131°51.07' W long and north of the latitude of the southernmost tip of Dall Head at 55°07.74' N lat.

East Behm Canal – Subdistricts 101-41 and 53: will be open for a GHL of **57,800 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Revillagigedo Channel and East Behm Canal south and east of a line from the northernmost tip of Cone Point at 55°14.88' N lat, 131°19.00' W long to the southwest entrance of Moth Bay at 55°15.67' N lat, 131°20.57' W long to the northernmost tip of Harbor Point at 55°13.03' N lat, 131°25.18' W long, north of a line on the eastern side of Annette Island at 55°06.78' N lat, 131°21.50' W long to the western side of Mary Island at 55°05.95' N lat, 131°13.00' W long to Mary Island Light at 55°05.94' N lat, 131°10.96' W long to the northernmost tip of Black Island at 55°08.00' N lat, 131°04.80' W long to the mainland shore at 55°08.00' N lat, 131°04.59' W long, and all waters of East Behm Canal south of a line from the northernmost tip of Roe Point at 55°14.47' N lat, 131°00.26' W long to the easternmost tip of Fox Point at 55°15.65' N lat, 131°03.88' W long.

West Behm Canal - Subdistricts 101-85 and 90: will be open for a GHL of **16,300 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of West Behm Canal north of a line from Caamano Point 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long to Point Higgins at 55°27.43' N lat, 131°50.03' W long and south of a line from the south end of Helm Bay at 55°35.47' N lat, 131°56.16' W long to the northernmost tip of Betton Island at 55°32.58' N lat, 131°47.65' W long with the following restriction:

Clover Passage: all waters will be closed.

District 2

Clarence Strait (Outside Cholmondeley) - Subdistrict 102-50: will be open for a GHL of **68,500 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters adjacent to the eastern shore of Prince of Wales Island south of a line from the northeast shore of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°28.38' N lat, 132°08.85' W long to Caamano Point at 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long, north of 55°08.25' N lat, east of a line from the southwest side of Kasaan Peninsula at 55°27.93' N lat, 132°11.92' W long to near Skowl Point at 55°25.00' N lat, 132°15.50' W long, and north and east of a line from the northwest entrance of Cholmondeley Sound at 55°15.23' N lat, 132°06.82' W long to 2.6 nmi southwest of Chasina Point at 55°14.73' N lat, 132°04.50' W long.

Clarence Strait (Ship Island Shoreline) - Subdistrict 102-80: will be open for a GHL of **76,100 pounds** of red sea urchins in those waters of Clarence Strait adjacent to the western shore of Cleveland Peninsula north of a line from Caamano Point at 55°29.85' N lat, 131°58.21' W long to inside Streets Island on Kasaan Peninsula at 55°28.38' N lat, 132°08.85' W long and south of a line from Lemesurier Point at 55°46.02' N lat, 132°16.94' W long to the easternmost tip of Narrow Point at 55°47.00' N lat, 132°28.23' W long.

Regulatory Summary

All vessels used in this fishery must have a valid vessel license from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and a Miscellaneous Shellfish vessel registration form issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Vessel registrations can be obtained at any Southeast ADF&G office. All crew members are required to have a valid commercial crewmember's license or a limited entry card from another fishery.

The following is a summary of red sea urchin fishery regulations:

1. All vessels, including tenders, must be registered with ADF&G prior to being used in the fishery.
2. All divers must have a valid CFEC permit card to harvest red sea urchins.
3. Permit card holders (hereafter, "permit holders") participating in the urchin fishery may not use dive gear for subsistence, personal use, or sport dive fishing during a 14-day period before or after the opening of the urchin fishery. A person who uses dive gear to fish in another commercial miscellaneous shellfish fishery may fish the red sea urchin fishery within the 14-day period (5 AAC 38.147).
4. No more than three permit holders may be onboard a registered vessel from 24 hours before, during, and for 24 hours after a fishing period, or when commercially harvested urchins are on board; no more than two permit holders may conduct fishing operations or land commercially harvested red sea urchins off of a registered vessel during any open fishing period.
5. There is no size limit for the harvest of red sea urchins.
6. Red sea urchins may be taken only by hand picking.
7. Only one species of miscellaneous shellfish is permitted to be on board a vessel at one time.
8. Prior to processing, urchins harvested from different subdistricts must be kept in separate containers labeled with the subdistrict and permit holder's name.
9. Floating processors must carry onboard observers. A floating processor may also be issued a permit allowing onboard processing under conditions listed in 5 AAC 38.145(n), instead of an onboard observer.
10. Permit holders must report dive times in minutes on fish tickets.

All fishermen and processors should consult a current Commercial Shellfish Fishing Regulations book for complete regulations. These books are available at local ADF&G offices.

The Emergency Order corresponding to this announcement is EO 1M3323.

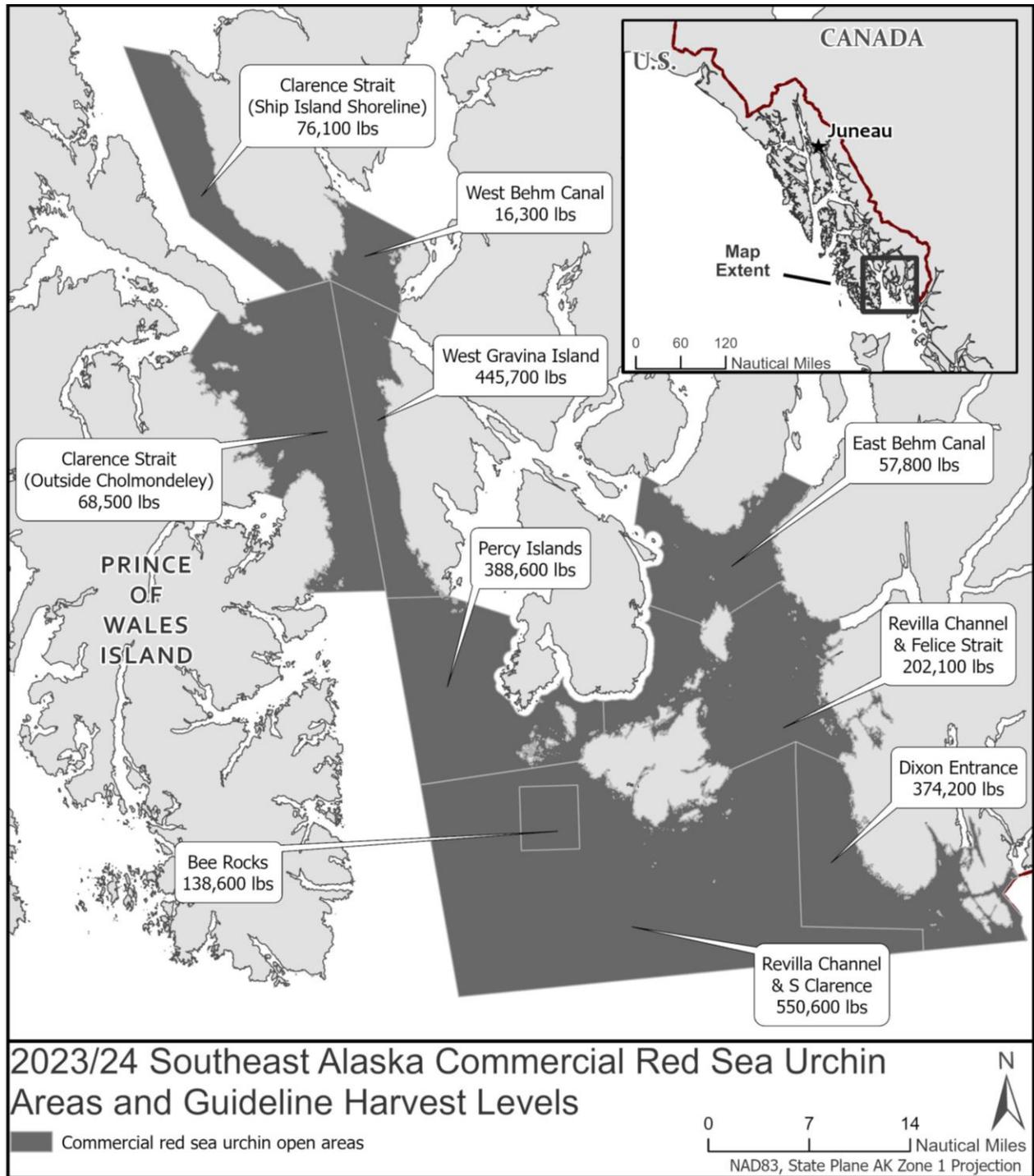


Figure 1. Commercial red sea urchin open harvest areas and guideline harvest levels for the 2023/24 season.

Note: This chart is for general reference purposes only and does not identify boundaries of open areas. See written descriptions above for detailed descriptions of open areas.

Advisory announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801		747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3255